REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL

TO

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE:

October 27, 2015

ANALYST:

Nataliya Ioffe

I. COMMITTEE:

State Tea Party Express

C90014762 Kelly Lawler P.O. Box 984

Willows, CA 95988

II. RELEVANT STATUTES:

52 U.S.C. §30104(c) and (g) 11 CFR §109.10(b) and (e)

III. BACKGROUND:

Failure to File Reports and Late Filing (Failure to Timely File the 2014 July Quarterly Report)

State Tea Party Express ("STPE") failed to timely file the 2014 July Quarterly Report to support the independent expenditures totaling \$106,137.99 disclosed on its two (2) 24-Hour Reports and receipts totaling \$111,000.00.

On April 9, 2014, STPE filed a 24-Hour Report disclosing two (2) independent expenditures totaling \$98,887.99, made in support of one (1) federal candidate, on Schedule 5-E (Itemized Independent Expenditures) (Images 14960632692-93).

On April 16, 2014, STPE filed a 24-Hour Report disclosing one (1) independent expenditure totaling \$7,250.00, made in support of one (1) federal candidate, on Schedule 5-E (Images 14960804074-75).

On August 7, 2014, a Notice of Failure to File was sent to STPE referencing the 2014 July Quarterly Report. The Notice of Failure to File stated that STPE may have failed to file the 2014 July Quarterly Report for the independent expenditures made

during the quarterly report coverage period of April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014 (Image 14330059192).

On August 28, 2014, STPE filed a 2014 July Quarterly Report disclosing the independent expenditures totaling \$106,137.99, previously disclosed on its two (2) 24-Hour Reports (Image 14970730945-46).

On January 28, 2015, a Request for Additional Information (RFAI) was sent to STPE referencing the 2014 July Quarterly Report. The RFAI requested information concerning contributions made to further the independent expenditures disclosed on the report (Image 15330072990).

On March 4, 2015, STPE filed an Amended 2014 July Quarterly Report to disclose receipts totaling \$111,000.00, with no change to the expenditures from the previous report (Image 15970292723-25).

On September 21, 2015, a Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Manager contacted Kelly Lawler, a representative for STPE, to inform her that the issue of the late filing of the 2014 July Quarterly Report was referable for further Commission action. The RAD Manager encouraged STPE to provide any additional explanation concerning this matter for the public record (Attachment 2).

On September 24, 2015, a RAD Manager followed up with Kelly Lawler regarding providing any additional explanation concerning the late filing of the 2014 July Quarterly Report for the public record. Ms. Lawler stated that STPE filed a Miscellaneous Electronic Submission ("FEC Form 99") earlier that day (Attachment 2).

Also on September 24, 2015, STPE filed an FEC Form 99, which stated, in full: "Thank you for your inquiry about our July Quarterly report. The 2014 cycle was the first time we participated as a 501C4. We filed out IE reports on time but were unaware of the requirement for the quarterly report. As soon as we new about it we filed the report" (Image 201509249002777241).

To date, no additional information has been received from STPE regarding this matter.

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